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LETTER DATED 12 APRIL 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Supreme Command of the Army of Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Statement by the Supreme Command of the Army of Yugoslavia

The rage of the aggressors, dreaming of a new world empire, is increasing with every passing day. Contrary to their expectations, the Serbian and Montenegrin peoples have not succumbed to the barbaric aggression of missiles and bombs. The damage done by the criminals to our country is increasing, the work created through sweat and deprivation by many generations perishing in ruins and flames. This only stiffens our resolve to preserve the right to freedom in an independent State.

Unable to defeat us by the cowardly technology of killing from afar, the enemy is preparing a new variation of aggression which - unless prevented - will bring an even greater bloodbath to Balkan countries.

From among the refugees and citizens of Albania that he expelled from their homeland by bombs, the self-proclaimed world gendarme is recruiting followers of a Greater Albania utopia. He is arming and training them for the role of cannon fodder in the planned land invasion over the border of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. He is taking their families for temporary accommodation until the psychological and military-material conditions have been prepared for their so-called "safe return" to Kosovo and Metohija.

It is being announced that the wave of refugee Albanians to their homeland would be followed by the armed forces of NATO and the reorganized "KLA". The undisguised collusion of the leadership of the United States with the terrorist organization should, in the new phase of aggression, save the United States, British and other NATO conquerors from sending their own soldiers to an extremely risky and totally unjustified Balkan ground battle. And the repeated fanning of propaganda manipulations in world public opinion about the ethnic cleansing of Albanians and the suffering of Albanian refugees alone serve the psychological preparation for a new phase of aggression.

Those plans represent an even deeper deadly suffering for the people of this vulnerable part of Europe. The use of refugees as a human shield is not only a new gross violation of international law, but also an introduction into a general inter-neighbour slaughterhouse among the peoples threatened by the idea of Greater Albania.

If the Washingtonian bellicose pretenders to the rule over the world have obviously learned nothing from their experience with the Afghan Taliban and are now seeking to transform south-east Europe into a new mass-scale arena of war, all the responsibility of these heinous plans will lie on them and those who agree to be harnessed and pull that cart. Our defence will not step back from whichever available possibility to protect its State and soil on which it has already defeated much superior invaders on many occasions.